Cooperation in Science and technology between Indian and Russia

701. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Advanced Computing Research Centre and the Ayurveda Research Centre were established in Moscow, under the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) of Co-operation in Science and Technology between India and Russia, which was signed by our former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, on 3rd July 1987;

(b) if so, whether these application-oriented ILTP projects have achieved the envisaged objectives; and

(c) whether Government is thinking of widening the scope of projects under the ILTP?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Russian Indian Centre for Advanced Computing Research and Russian Indian Centre for Ayurvedic Research were established in Moscow on 3rd July, 2000 and 1st October, 2004 respectively under the Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) of Co-operation in Science and Technology between India and Russia.

(b) Yes, Sir. Advanced Computing Research Centre has been successfully working on joint projects related to fundamental and applied matters of algorithmic support for high-efficiency computers of parallel architectural design; development of software products; numeric modelling and researching in the field of continuum mechanics; physics; high-power shock detonation wave physics; ecology; geology and geophysics; processing of seismic data; weather forecasting and climate modelling; economics; satellite computer technologies; remote probing. Ayurvedic Research Centre is working towards providing necessary research and development base for undertaking studies including those on the pharmacokinetics of Ayurvedic drugs, including toxicity studies and development of improved processes for the formulation of standardized Ayurvedic drugs. Presently one major project on "Genotype-phenotype correlation based on the principles of Ayurveda with special focus on *prakriti*" is being implemented.

(c) Presently, there is no proposal to widen the scope of these Centres.

Problem in hostels for backward classes' boys and girls

702. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of certain reports carried out in some sections of the electronic media that the hostels meant to house the boys and girls from backward classes are reclining under the problems of mismanagement, unhygienic living conditions and poor quality food;

(b) if so, whether any measures have been taken to improve the situation;

(c) if so, the details of measures initiated to improve the conditions of the hostels in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No such complaint has been received in the Ministry.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Scheduled caste status for Bangla speaking people in Uttarakhand

†703. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a lot of Bangla speaking social groups, having the status of Scheduled Caste in their original places and in West Bengal and Orissa have settled in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether these communities have been asking for Scheduled Caste status for years and a proposal has been sent by the State Government to the Union Government supporting their demand; and

(c) if so, the number of occasions when such proposals were received and by when favourable decision would be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Bengali speaking refugees migrated from the erstwhile East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) and settled in the State of Uttarakhand. They did not have the status of Scheduled Castes in their original place.

However, the State Government of Uttarakhand sent a proposal to include Namasudra, Pond, Poundra and Manjhi communities in the list of Scheduled Castes. The proposal was returned to the State Government on 30.12.2003 alongwith the views of Registrar General of India. It is not poosible to indicate a time frame for a favourable decision.

Setting up of DDRCs in Madhya Pradesh

†704. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: **Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in all the districts of the State not having such Centres;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been cleared;

(c) if not, the present status of the proposal and by when it would be cleared; and

(d) the names of districts cleared for setting up of DDRCs in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal to set up District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in the unserved districts

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.